



P.B.5818 – Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
+31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

**Europäisches  
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La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Prins, Adrianus Willem  
Vereenigde,  
Nieuwe Parklaan 97  
2587 BN Den Haag  
PAYS-BAS

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire  
**ASML Netherlands B.V.**

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

3



## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 874 283 A (NIPPON KOGAKU KK) 28 October 1998 (1998-10-28) * column 9, line 10 - line 31; figure 1 * * column 13, line 53 - column 14, line 49; figure 11 * * claim 8 *	1-28	G01N21/15 G01M11/00 G03F7/20
X	US 2002/134947 A1 (VAN SCHAIK WILLEM) 26 September 2002 (2002-09-26) * page 3, paragraph 24 - page 4, paragraph 40 * * figures 1,2 * * column 5, paragraph 69 - column 6, paragraph 72 *	1-28	
X	US 6 392 738 B1 (KLAASSEN FRANCISCUS A G ET AL) 21 May 2002 (2002-05-21) * claim 1 *	1-28	
A	US 2002/145808 A1 (BINGEL ULRICH ET AL) 10 October 2002 (2002-10-10) * page 2, paragraph 19 - paragraph 21 *	1-28	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 427 703 B1 (SOMEKH SASSON) 6 August 2002 (2002-08-06) * column 1, line 61 - column 3, line 10 *	1-28	G01N G01M G03F
A	US 2002/083409 A1 (HAMM UWE W) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27) * page 2, paragraph 21 - paragraph 23 *	1-28	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search  MUNICH	Date of completion of the search  10 April 2003	Examiner  Consalvo, D
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-04-2003

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